

News Release**Date: December 31, 2003****Re: The following statement is issued by Mayor Bob Young on the passing of Commissioner Lee Beard:****MEDIA ADVISORY**

" Augusta lost one of its champions today with the passing of Commissioner Lee Beard. Mr. Beard gave a lifetime of untiring service to the people of this community. He was an educator and principal. He served on the City Commission since its creation in 1996, and prior to that on Augusta City Council. He provided continuity during the transition to a consolidated government and provided leadership in the establishment of the current system of governance. Mr. Beard cared deeply about this city and the well-being of the people he served. He understood the human condition and what it took to make life better for the people who live here. He was never known for long-winded speeches and debates, but his impact on public policy was enormous. I personally appreciated Mr. Beard's involvement in my initiatives to expand affordable housing programs. Today, the thoughts and prayers of a grateful city are with Lee and his family. May God bless you all."